marketed by many companies. Collection and analysis of the voluminous data in regard to them may not be commensurate with the results likely to be achieved. However, to the extent information is available, some manufacturers have reduced the prices of non-scheduled bulk drugs and formulations, which are not under price control.

Fertilizer Pricing Policy

4076. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 321 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th July, 1994 and state:

(a) whether the fertilizers pricing policy is proposed to be announced soon;

(b) if so, whether the Department of Fertilizers have made a concrete proposal and the State Governments have been consulted in this regard;

(c) by what time the policy is likely to be announced; and

(d) what will be its main features?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) The policy parameters for the Retention Price-cum Subsidy Scheme for the Sixth Pricing Period have not been announced yet. The proposals are under finalisation. Since the Scheme is applicable to manufacturers of fertilizers and subsidy is payable to them directly by the Government of India, the need for consultation with the State Governments does not arise.

Increase in the prices of fertilizers

4077. SHRI AHMED MOHMEDBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the increase in the prices of fertilizers during last three years;

(b) whether this has reduced the subsidy budget;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether an increase in the prices of fertilizers had resulted in the decrease in consumption; and

(e) if so, consumption of fertilizers during .last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The major changes in the prices of controlled fertilizers during the last three years were as under:—

(i) On 25.7.1991, the prices of all varieties of controlled fertilizes were increased by 40%, as the prices had remained almost at the same level during the previous ten years. However, the above increase was reduced to 30% w.e.f. 14.8.1991.

(ii) On 25.8.1992, the consumer price of urea was reduced by 10% alongwith decontrol of all the phosphatic and potassic fertilizers.

(iii) On 10.6.1994, the consumer price of urea was increased by 20%-.

(b) and (c) Whereas the total subsidy paid on controlled fertilizers was about Rs. 4800 crores during 1991-92, there payments during 1993-94 were of the order of about Rs. 4400 crores.

(d) and (e) The consumption of fertilizer nutrients during the last three years was as under:—

(Lakh tonnes of nutrients)

Year	Consumption (Nitrogen + phosphate + potash)
1991-92	— 127.28
1992-93	— 121.53
1993-94	— 126.32 (Provisional)